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Pages: , *including this coversheet.*

Comments:

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To: Examiner Y. Connell (+1(703) 308-8724)
From: Allen C. Turner

1. (Amended) A chimeric adenovirus comprising at least a part of a fiber protein of [an] a first adenovirus serotype providing the chimeric virus with a desired host range and at least a part of a penton or hexon protein from [another less antigenic] a second adenovirus serotype that is less antigenic than the first adenovirus resulting in a [less antigenic] chimeric adenovirus that is less antigenic than the first adenovirus serotype.

2. (Amended) A recombinant vector derived from an adenovirus comprising at least one ITR and a packaging signal having an insertion site for a nucleic acid sequence of interest, and further having an insertion site for functionally inserting a gene encoding a penton and/or a hexon protein of a first serotype of adenovirus and having an insertion site for a gene encoding a fiber protein of a second adenovirus of a different serotype, wherein the gene encoding the penton and/or hexon protein encodes a penton and/or hexon protein from an adenovirus serotype less antigenic in humans than the serotype of the fiber.

3. The recombinant vector of claim 2 which is a plasmid.

Claims 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 would be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

9. (Amended) A method for producing a chimeric adenovirus having [a desired host range and diminished antigenicity]immunological properties determined by a hexon and/or penton of a first adenovirus serotype and a desired host range determined by a fiber of a second adenovirus serotype, said method comprising

providing a recombinant vector derived from an adenovirus comprising at least one ITR and a packaging signal having an insertion site for a nucleic acid sequence of interest, and further having an insertion site for functionally inserting a gene encoding a penton and/or a hexon protein of [a]the first serotype of adenovirus and having an insertion site for a gene encoding a fiber protein of [a]the second adenovirus [of a different serotype];

inserting into said vector at least a functional part of a penton or hexon protein derived from [an] the first adenovirus serotype having relatively low antigenicity as compared with the fiber of the second adenovirus serotype,

inserting at least a functional part of a fiber protein derived from [an]the second adenovirus serotype having the desired host range;

transfecting said vector in a packaging cell [according to claim 4]; and

producing chimeric viral particles.

10. (Amended) [A]The method according to claim 9, wherein the reduced antigenicity is a diminished capability, as compared with the first adenovirus serotype, to raise neutralizing antibodies.

11. The chimeric adenovirus of claim 1, wherein the hexon, penton and/or fiber proteins are chimeric proteins originating from different adenovirus serotypes.

12. (Amended) A nucleic acid library comprising nucleic [acid]acids derived from different adenovirus serotypes.